

# Film industry suffers loss of a patriarch

Times News Network

MUMBAI: *Railgaadi, railgaadi..ruk..ruk..ruk..* With the demise of veteran actor Ashok Kumar on Monday afternoon, the *railgaadi* reached its final destination.

The doyen of the Indian film industry, affectionately known as *Dadamuni*, succumbed to cardiac arrest at 2.30 p.m. on Monday. The 90-year-old actor, who had been bed-ridden for almost four years, was later cremated at the Chembur crematorium in the presence of his family members and close friends.

"He breathed his last a little before 2.30 p.m.," said son Arup Kumar. "We



Ashok Kumar

had been expecting it since he had been bed-ridden for almost four years now. But the eventuality has really shaken us. We thank God that at least he didn't have to suffer much towards the end."

The news, however, did take film industrywallahs by surprise. "Although *Dadamuni* has been ill for quite some time now, the news of his death completely took me by surprise. It's really hard to come to terms with the fact that he, who nurtured my acting career, is no longer among us," said Pran, who worked with Ashok Kumar in several films.

► A great performer, Page 5

► A long journey, Page 5